

Activity: Easter Story in a Box Lent/Easter Season



**FAMILY TIME
TRAINING**

Teaching Goal: Teach the story of Easter Week.

Scripture: Luke 19 to 24: The final days of Jesus' life on earth from Palm Sunday to the Ascension.

Materials: Shoe box
Pipe cleaners- assorted colors
Styrofoam
Small box
Contact paper or wide tape
Felt
Popsicle sticks
4 pens, pencils or wood rods

In Advance: Prepare the objects, which will be stored in the box and used to tell the story.
Make 12 stick figures out of pipe cleaners. Cut the pipe cleaner in half. Bend one half around your small fingertip. Twist the cleaner to make a circle for the head. Make another twist half way down to create the body. Split the two ends below the lower twist to make the legs. Use the other half of the cleaner to twist around the mid-section to make arms. Stick the legs in a thin, small piece of Styrofoam to help the characters stand.
3 orange figures = Disciples
3 black figures = 2 Roman soldiers and 1 Pontius Pilot
2 blue figures = Thieves on the other crosses
1 yellow figure = Angel
1 white figure = Jesus
2 pink figures = Mary and Mary

Make a donkey out of brown pipe cleaner. Use the same procedure as for the stick man, except bend the legs down for the back legs. Bend the arms down for the front legs and tilt the head up.

Make three crosses out of Popsicle sticks with one larger than the other two.

Cut a rectangular piece of Styrofoam approximately 3" by 6" and cover it with contact paper or tape. Punch three holes to hold the crosses.

Cut two more rectangular pieces of Styrofoam also 3" by 6" and punch a pen or pencil into each corner of the bottom piece. Punch the other ends of the pencils into the top piece of Styrofoam making a temple room with 4 columns.

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Cut a small rectangular piece of Styrofoam approximately 1 and 1/2" by 3" and cover it with contact paper or tape to make a bench for the throne room.

Make a crown of thorns out of a brown pipe cleaner to fit on the Jesus stick figure. Make a red crown out of pipe cleaner to fit on the Pontius Pilot stick figure.

Take a small box approximately the size of a Velveeta box and cut a circular hole in one side. Cut a piece of cardboard in a circle slightly bigger than the hole. Use a pin to attach the cardboard circle over the hole to serve as the tomb and stone.

The white cloth or paper towel will be the linens for Jesus' body when he is buried in the tomb.

Cut small pieces of green pipe cleaner to be palms on Palm Sunday.

Cut a 2" strip of brown felt to serve as the road to Emmaus.

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. ACTIVITY: Story in a box. Tell the story by pulling the pieces out of the box. Keeping the pieces you have not used in the box helps to keep the children curious and hold their attention.

Jesus arrives in Jerusalem riding on the donkey. The three disciples are with him. Palm branches are placed on the table in front of the donkey. When Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, the people are glad to see him but a few of the religious leaders are not glad to see him. Jesus is taken to the temple room by the two Roman guards, and Pontius Pilot in his red crown is sitting on the bench. They put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. Jesus is crucified on the cross with two thieves on either side. One asks Jesus to remember him to God, and Jesus says that thief will go to heaven. Mary, Mary and the Disciples are watching at the crucifixion. After he dies, Jesus body is wrapped in linens and placed in the tomb. (Have the yellow angel already inside the tomb box.) The stone is rolled over to cover the tomb. Two Roman guards are placed outside the tomb. Mary and Mary come down the road to put spices on Jesus' body, and they find the guards lying down, the stone rolled away, Jesus' body gone and the linens lying empty. The angel comes out of the tomb and tells them that Jesus is alive and they should go tell the disciples. The ladies go back down the road and meet someone who they first think is a gardener, but then they learn that he is Jesus. Later, Jesus meets two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They do not recognize Jesus at first until after they talk about the recent events of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. The story ends with Jesus ascending into Heaven.

- V. Memorize:

**The Easter story reminds me
That Jesus died and rose so I could be free.**

VI. Close in Prayer

VII. Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and pass *it on* to another family.